

the State of the Union Address this year, the President signaled his willingness to work to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. We must send him a bill to eliminate the marriage penalty suffered by 28 million American working couples.

The proposal offered by the President to reduce the marriage tax penalty is a good start, but it is not enough! By doubling the standard deduction, only couples who do not itemize their income taxes receive the benefits of tax relief. In order to provide relief to couples who itemize, mainly homeowners, we must address the difference in the income tax brackets. If we follow only the President's plan, the result will be a marriage tax penalty against couples who are homeowners and couples who contribute to charities. This is not right and it is not fair!

Speaker HASTERT and House Republicans have made eliminating the marriage tax penalty a top priority. In fact, we plan to move legislation out of the House before Valentine's Day.

Last year, President Clinton and Vice-President GORE vetoed our efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty for almost 28 million married working people. The Republican effort would have provided about \$120 billion in marriage tax relief. Unfortunately, President Clinton and Vice-President GORE said they would rather spend the money on new government programs than eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

This year we ask President Clinton and Vice-President GORE to join with us and sign into law a stand-alone bill to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and health to America's children, the U.S. Tax Code should not be one of them. The greatest accomplishment of the Republican Congress this past year was our success in protecting the Social Security Trust Fund and adopting a balanced budget that did not spend one dime of Social Security—the first balanced budget in over 30 years that did not raid Social Security.

Let's eliminate The Marriage Tax Penalty and do it now!

RECOGNIZING THE SUPER BOWL CHAMPION LONGMEADOW HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the unprecedented accomplishments of the 1999 Longmeadow High School football team. Longmeadow became the first Western Massachusetts team to win three straight titles. The Lancers captured the Division II Super Bowl with a 36–21 victory over Shrewsbury.

Longmeadow could not have asked for a better beginning as they scored on all five possessions in the first half. Running back Winston McGregor led the way with 162 yards rushing and three touchdowns. Quarterback Justin Vincent was impressive with 118 yards passing, and the Lancer defense shut out their opponents in the fourth quarter. As always, credit must be given to the linemen who gave

Vincent the time to pick apart the Shrewsbury defense and McGregor the holes through which to run.

Longmeadow Head Coach Alex Rotsko has built an impressive program at Longmeadow. The Lancers, having now three Super Bowls in a row, will be the odds on favorite in the coming season. Despite losing leaders like McGregor and Ryan McCarthy to graduation, Coach Rotsko will have his charges ready to defend their title once more, a situation with which the Lancers are intimately familiar.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to congratulate the 1999 Longmeadow High School football team. Winning a title once is something to be remembered, but winning three in a row is the start of a dynasty. I wish Coach Rotsko and his Lancers the best of luck in the 2000 season, as they return once again to defend their Super Bowl title.

HONORING JUDGE BRUCE BALTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Bruce Balter, who received the Holocaust Education award in recognition of his outstanding efforts to teach lessons of the Shoah to today's generation. The award was presented by Joe Hynes, District Attorney in Brooklyn, who commended Judge Balter for his remarkable work.

Judge Balter has a long and distinguished record of public service to the Jewish community of New York. He is a recipient of the State Medal of Israel, and has written and produced three television documentaries on the Holocaust, which have been shown on PBS and other television shows throughout the country. In addition to his television work, he has coordinated and hosted the Civil Court Holocaust Memorial Remembrance each year since being elected to the judiciary. He lectures and takes student groups on tours of the Museum of Jewish Heritage and the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

Judge Balter's list of accomplishments, though, far exceeds just his work for the Holocaust. He holds the rank of Lt. Colonel in the New York guard. He is the current chairman of the surrogate's court committee of the Brooklyn Bar Association. He lectures high school students throughout the city on African-American, Jewish, and Hispanic relations. The Judge was also past counsel for prominent Sephardic schools and organizations and currently is a board member of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush and Director of the Association of Jewish Court Attaches.

It is Judge Balter's drive for accomplishment and concern for the community that has garnered him the Community Justice Award from the Appellate Division—the highest court in Brooklyn. It is important that we continue to honor such individuals, whose efforts and accomplishments are an inspiration to us all. Please join me in acknowledging the outstanding community service of Judge Bruce Balter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably absent on Tuesday, February 1, and consequently missed a recorded vote on H.R. 1838. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 5.

TRIBUTE TO LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educational institution in my community, Los Angeles Mission College. On February 10, 2000, Los Angeles Mission College will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

Los Angeles Mission College was established to serve the northeast San Fernando Valley communities of Sylmar, San Fernando, Mission Hills, Lakeview Terrace, Arleta, Pacoima, Panorama City, Granada Hills, North Hills, Chatsworth, Porter Ranch, Sun Valley and Sunland-Tujunga. From an initial class of 1,228 students, enrollment has grown to include over 7,000 students per year. It has the fastest-growing enrollment in the L.A. Community College District. The College has enabled more than 100,000 students to earn college degrees and occupational certificates, or transfer to baccalaureate granting institutions.

With its strong record for developing innovative community based programs, Los Angeles Mission College has proven not just to be a leader among community colleges, but to be the embodiment of those values and ideals that make community colleges special. The College has developed successful employment directed programs, occupational transfer curricula, dynamic partnerships with local business and civic organizations, inventive technology applications and numerous workforce development programs. The College is unsurpassed in ensuring that its predominant first generation college students succeed in today's competitive marketplace. All of this is especially remarkable considering that its student population and financial needs have grown exponentially faster than available resources.

I have attended and enjoyed many programs at Mission College and can, therefore, attest firsthand to the high spirit and love of learning to be found on its campus. Furthermore, I have regularly relied on Mission College students to assist me in my district office where they have served as interns and staff. I am greatly impressed by the caliber and dedication of Mission College students, faculty and administration.

It is a pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Los Angeles Mission College on its 25th Anniversary. It has been an honor to have such a fine institution in the 26th Congressional District and I look forward to its continued evolution and success over the next 25 years.